



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Business & Workforce Diversity
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois 62764

IDOT MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM

NOTICE

December 20, 2006

Attention: DBE Firms, Prime Contractors and Industry Associations:

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has concluded the general information meetings regarding its new Mentor-Protégé Program (Program) pilot that is scheduled to start with the April 2007 Letting.

IDOT welcomes any certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firm and/or prime contractor who meets the minimum requirements of the Program to submit an application. All potential Mentors and Protégés must complete and submit their respective applications to IDOT by close of business, **February 16, 2007**.

Eligibility Requirements:

Mentor: The firm must have at least five (5) years of experience as a contractor (preferably, but not necessarily, as a prime contractor) on IDOT highway construction contracts and agree to devote a minimum of five (5) to ten (10) hours per month to working with the Protégé.

Protégé: The firm must have at least three (3) years of experience in the highway construction industry, be a certified DBE with an Illinois Unified Certification Program (IL UCP) agency*, and remain an eligible DBE firm throughout the duration of Program participation.

* IL UCP agencies include IDOT, City of Chicago, CTA, Metra, and Pace.

IDOT will complete the evaluations of submitted applications by **March 2, 2007**. A list of those eligible for the Mentor Protégé Program will be posted on IDOT's web site, however, IDOT encourages all firms who are eligible to communicate at the earliest possible time with potential mentors/protégés to explore possible relationships and their benefits.

For more information on the Mentor-Protégé Program, please visit IDOT's web site at www.dot.il.gov and click the "**Mentor-Protégé Program**" button on the right side of IDOT's home page. Contact the Office of Business & Workforce Diversity at 217/785-5394 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Paul Cerpa'.

Paul Cerpa, Director
Office of Business & Workforce Diversity